IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, and 17-19 as indicated below.

Please cancel claims 3, 4, and 16 without prejudice.

A listing of the status of all claims 1-19 in the present patent application is provided below.

1 (Currently Amended). A method for admission control of packet flows in a network, the method comprising:

initiating a flow of packets across the network via at least one signaling packet originated from an end terminal located outside the network;

determining a flow rate associated with a plurality of packets entering or exiting the network, wherein the plurality of packets comprise the at least one signaling packet and at least one payload packet;

marking at least one predetermined bit in at least one of the plurality of packets if the flow rate is greater than a predetermined rate; and

controlling the initiated flow of packets across the network based at least in part on the marking of the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one of the plurality of packets.

2 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein

the network comprises a plurality of network elements, and

the flow rate is determined at a first network element, where the first network element is part of an access link of the network.

3 (Cancelled).

4 (Cancelled).

5 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim [[4]]1, where information associated with the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one signaling packet is communicated to the end terminal.

6 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim [[4]]1, where the end terminal echoes information associated with the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one signaling packet in a transmission to the network.

7 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1 further comprising cancelling the initiated flow of packets

across the network if the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one of the plurality of packets is marked.

8 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the initiated flow of packets across the network is controlled by an entity that controls the network.

9 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the control of the initiated flow of packets across the network is based at least in part on priorities or importance of the plurality of packets and the initiated flow of packets.

10 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of packets comprise real-time packets.

11 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of packets comprise Internet Protocol (IP) packets.

12 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 11, wherein the plurality of packets comprise voice over IP (VoIP) packets.

13 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one predetermined bit is part of a Differentiated Services field in an IP header of the at least one of the plurality of packets.

14 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined rate is based on a network bandwidth allocated for the plurality of packets.

15 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 14, wherein the predetermined rate is raised to a value above the allocated network bandwidth for a predetermined period of time.

16 (Cancelled).

17 (Currently Amended). At least one non-transitory processor readable carrier for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to execute a computer process for performing the method as recited in claim 1.

18 (Currently Amended). A system for admission control of packet flows, the system comprising:

at least one terminal that initiates a flow of packets across a network by transmitting at least one signaling packet, wherein the at least one terminal is located outside of the network;

at least one network element that:

determines a flow rate associated with a plurality of packets entering or exiting the network, wherein the plurality of packets comprise the at least one signaling packet and at least one payload packet, and

marks at least one predetermined bit in at least one of the plurality of packets if the flow rate is greater than a predetermined rate; and

an admission control module that controls the initiated flow of packets across the network based at least in part on the marking of the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one of the plurality of packets.

19 (Currently Amended). A system for admission control of packet flows, the system comprising:

means for initiating a flow of packets across the network via at least one signaling packet originated from an end terminal located outside of the network;

means for determining a flow rate associated with a

plurality of packets entering or exiting the network, wherein the plurality of packets comprise the at least one signaling packet and at least one payload packet;

means for marking at least one predetermined bit in at least one of the plurality of packets if the flow rate is greater than a predetermined rate; and

means for controlling the initiated flow of packets across the network based at least in part on the marking of the at least one predetermined bit in the at least one of the plurality of packets.